

## NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS COUNCIL OF CLARK COUNTY

### JANUARY 10, 2005 MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Doug Ballou at 7 p.m. Those in attendance were: Dick Durland, Sherwood Hills; Susan Gilbert, Enterprise/Paradise Point; Duane Mattson, Ridgefield Junction; Bill Barron, Clark County; Lianne Bannow, Clark County; Robyn Kim, Greater Brush Prairie; Ernie Goodrich, West Hazel Dell; Neil Kimsey, Clark County; Lucretia Achziger, NE Hazel Dell; Curtis Achziger, N.E. Hazel Dell; Sam Kim, Greater Brush Prairie; Bridget Schwarz, Friends of Clark County; Commissioner Betty Sue Morris; Cathy Steiger, Cedars; Lamont Shaindlin, Sifton; Lloyd Handlos, Greater Brush Prairie; John Morrow, Greater Brush Prairie; Lee Wells, Ridgefield Junction; Doug Ballou, NACCC Chairman; Jack Bremer, Concerned Citizens of Hockinson; Art Stubbs, Green Meadows; Commissioner Marc Boldt; Bud Van Cleve; NE Hazel Dell; Ron Price Pleasant Highlands; Dart Goin, NE Hazel Dell NA; Milada Allen, Felida NA; Debbie Abraham, Hockinson citizen; George Vartanian, Fairgrounds; Ila Stanek, Hazel Dell-Salmon Creek Business Association; Bob Collins, North Salmon Creek; Patti Collins, North Salmon Creek; Tom Hagley, Vancouver Schools; William Moyer, Pleasant Highlands; Pat O'Neil, NE Hazel Dell, Holly Gaya, CC Neighborhood Outreach.

The first order of business was to recognize Holly Gaya, Clark County Information and Outreach for her enormous contribution over the years to NACCC. Doug Ballou remembered when there was much hostility between the county and neighborhoods and Holly was instrumental in taking on the challenge of turning around the relationship and helping to evolve the program into the successful one it is today. Holly has a strong belief in neighborhoods and, from a very grateful group, Doug presented Holly with a plaque to honor her and her good work, along with a dozen red roses and a nice card.

Doug then went into some of the history of NACCC by outlining the NACCC Charter and Action Plan so that the audience's understanding of its purpose was refreshed. He welcomed Commissioners Morris, Boldt, and Stuart to the meeting so that all could meet the new commissioners and hear about the upcoming year.

Doug described the Action Plan and listed several of the achievements NACCC has had over the years. NACCC members have helped launch new neighborhood associations, helped others get on a positive course of action, and participate on county task forces. Neighborhood Association representatives have assisted in developing county ordinances such as the Infill, Cell Tower, and Home Occupation ordinances. NACCC has held community forums such as "Healthy Hospital" and the "Exploration of the WSU 78<sup>th</sup> St. redevelopment possibilities". On a national level, NACCC has participated in the Neighborhoods USA annual meeting which were of tremendous benefit to our community, enabling the attendees to bring back to the community programs that have worked all over the country. NACCC members helped initiate and support the Juvenile Restorative Justice program which is a cutting edge program. NACCC supported the County Commissioners decision to place the Metropolitan Parks District proposition before citizens who live in the unincorporated Vancouver area which if approved would provide funding to maintain 35 new parks and 41 new ball fields.

Doug stated that NACCC has helped citizens get into the development process early, not when the development is almost complete. Bud Van Cleve and Curtis Achziger are instrumental in organizing and holding meetings with developers so neighbors can share their concerns prior to the final hearing on the project.

From a county-wide perspective, NACCC is most recently involved in the Cowlitz/Mohegan Casino plans, the Clark County Amphitheater, and the asphalt plant in Brush Prairie.

Doug and Holly Gaya made a panel presentation on how to avoid litigation at an international law conference at the University of Oregon.

With the aid of Tom Hagley of the Vancouver School District, NACCC has just started to work on how to increase youth involvement in neighborhood associations as well as to reach out and build partnerships among groups and citizens.

Doug announced that City of Vancouver and Clark County Neighborhood Associations would be hosting a forum on February 8 with support from the City of Vancouver and Clark County to bring business, government and neighborhood association people together to learn how and explore new avenues on how neighborhood associations can be leveraged in building stronger communities. The first hour will feature Robert Farrell of Farrell's Ice Cream who will give an inspirational presentation followed in the second hour of a panel of six discussing successful partnerships and the afternoon will be devoted to a workshop.

#### COMMISSIONERS MORRIS, BOLDT, AND STUART.

Doug then introduced the three commissioners. Each indicated their eagerness to work with NACCC and asked for feedback from neighborhoods. Commissioner Boldt indicated that governments primary job is to keep our community safe and Commissioner Stuart stated his interest in "knowing what is going on, on the ground" and welcomed e-mails and newsletters as they are good vehicles for information dispersal.

Commissioner Morris indicated that the county should strive to help neighborhoods understand the difference in processes. It is important to get together even when something negative is not the compelling force. She said it is important for citizens to be educated in the process of government and asked if we (NACCC) can partner with the county to make that happen this coming year.

Bill Barron offered that Florida has a Citizens Academy for Sheriffs and suggested we do that for the entire government. He believes we can do that with existing resources. Getting the word out to the public via public relations efforts will help.

Commissioner Morris stated that there is a fundamental difficulty in explaining who we (government) are and what we do. She hopes NACCC and Clark County can work together to tackle this project.

Susan Gilbert praised the commissioners for instituting an "open door" policy over the past few years - that it made a great difference in the public's perception of government, and she hoped the door would remain "wide open".

#### AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Bridget gave a report on the awards committee's findings. The committee gathered to define the criteria for the award and to choose among a list of suggestions. A receipted for the

award was selected and approved by membership in attendance. A full report will be given on this next month.

## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

Dick Durland, Sherwood Hills – There is much infill going on in their neighborhood on 4500 sf lots. There is a methadone clinic moving in and Dick has received many calls concerned about the danger that might bring to the neighborhood. Advice from several to him was to get out the statistics that show that crime actually decreases as well as other positive statistics that will help the community's opinions become based on fact. Tom Hagley of Vancouver Schools indicated that it was important to find out how the clinic is run and it was important to remember that the more addicts that were on methadone meant less on heroin and that was good for the community and the neighborhood.

Lamont Shaindlin, Sifton – He announced that a large development was coming in featuring a Wal-Mart and Kaiser

Cathy Steiger, Cedars – She indicated that a developer in her area wants to work with neighbors

Lee Wells, Ridgefield Junction – Lee announced that the Port of Ridgefield has annexed 500 more acres and that his association was involved with transportation issues and indicated that they were talking with private players. He noted that a new overpass will be put in at 269<sup>th</sup> Street and that there were 1200 homes on the books in different stages of development which should all come to fruition over the next three years.

Bridget Schwarz – Friends of Clark County – Bridget simply lamented that the loss of Steve Stuart on the FoCC Board was a gain for the county!

Debbie Abraham, Hockinson – Debbie announced the voting on February of the new Metropolitan Parks District and handed out a flyer which explains the vote to the public.

Milada Allen, Felida – Milada indicated that there are still stormwater and wetland problems in her area.

Sam Kim, Greater Brush Prairie – Sam announced that part of the EIS for the asphalt plant has been returned to the company because it was inadequate. He expects a meeting soon.

Bob Collins, North Salmon Creek – They are trying to get a park north of library turned into a nature park. He said modifications were going in on 139<sup>th</sup> with another freeway overpass which will cause congestion just west of the Fred Meyer store where Tenney Road and 139<sup>th</sup> come together. He believes it is poor planning.

Bill Moyer, Pleasant Highlands – He announced his annual meeting on January 27<sup>th</sup>. He said that the owner of some berry fields on 50<sup>th</sup> avenue has filed a challenge to develop the property as low density development and wants to be brought in to the UGB.

Neil Kimsey, Hazel Dell Sewer District – Decisions need to be made regarding the GMA plan and critical areas by May 15, or it could cost the Sewer District an additional \$9 million in interest cost to fund the expansion of the Salmon Creek Waste Water Treatment plant over the life of the bond. They would miss a window of opportunity on low cost financing for the project. (bond at 4.5%) He also announced that the state legislature funded a study on annexation. The focus groups that they interviewed wanted to vote on annexation, but they

decided it was to go by petition instead. Hazel Dell-Salmon Creek Business Association meets the second Wednesday of every month at the Fire District #6 off Hazel Dell Avenue.

Bud Van Cleve, NE Hazel Dell – He announced the Kid's Christmas party was a resounding success with 302 kids attending. They owe a big thanks to Hewlett-Packard for all they did to support the party.

Art Stubbs, Green Meadows – Art stated that the Clean Water Commission was meeting with Pete Capell about sponsoring low impact development.

Susan Gilbert, Enterprise/Paradise Point – Susan attended the invitation-only reception hosted by the Cowlitz/Mohegan Tribes. She indicated that her question which asked that if the Mohegan Sun and the Foxwoods casinos were such a great deal for the State of Ct. and such a financial windfall, why did Connecticut pass legislation two years ago banning any further casinos in that state? Their answer was that the most influential legislators were from Fairfield County which was overcrowded and unable to handle any further labor-intensive businesses and they pushed it through. Susan thought that answer unsatisfactory but Mr. Bunnell of the Mohegan Tribe indicated later privately that he would be happy to get her into Attorney General Blumenthal's office so that he could answer any further concerns she might have. Susan indicated that the draft EIS may be ready some time in July at which time her association will pore over it with a fine-toothed comb and voice any and all concerns during the response period. Mr. Barnett indicated at the reception that they will ask the BIA to allow more than the usual 45-day response period for comments since the report will be extensive.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Gilbert  
Secretary

Reviewed and Approved by Doug Ballou, January 12, 2005